United Nations E/2012/47

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations	2
	A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	2
	B. United Nations Children's Fund	3
	C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	3
	D. World Health Organization	4

* E/2012/100.

12-30091 (E) 090512

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2011/40, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 66/84, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In the same resolution, the Assembly commended the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on the question, and requested it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. The following 16 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[1] Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out below.

II. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information received, during the period under review, several specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

5. Tokelau became an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in June 2011. Currently, FAO works with the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories mainly to tackle coastal environmental protection concerns. For example, in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and others, it hosted a regional workshop to prepare disaster risk management plans for hurricanes,

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

floods and droughts in the agriculture sector, which was held in Grenada from 17 to 19 January 2012 and attended by participants from Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, among others. The participants also took part in a study funded by FAO to determine the status of preparation of disaster risk management plans for the agriculture sector.

6. In its submission, FAO noted that forests and trees played a crucial role in the social and economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in addition to providing environmental services (such as carbon storage and soil and water protection). Many of the habitats of the tropical Non-Self-Governing Territories were of global significance in terms of conservation of biological diversity, in particular endemic species. The lack of resources and limited technical capacity for forest resource monitoring in many Non-Self-Governing Territories, however, meant that they had some of the poorest forest data in the world.

B. United Nations Children's Fund

7. In 2011, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported activities for journalists on social policy matters in Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. In the British Virgin Islands, interventions included training for journalists on social policy; developing a national child abuse prevention, reporting and management protocol; and developing a health and family life education policy.

8. The Pacific office of UNICEF extended support to American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Tokelau in four main areas: immunization strengthening; HIV/AIDS; food and nutrition security; and pandemic preparedness.

9. UNICEF provides secretariat functions for the Pacific Immunization Programme Strengthening initiative, which brings key partners together with all Pacific island countries and Territories to review immunization coverage and make progress towards goals such as maintaining polio-free status, eliminating measles and controlling hepatitis B.

10. With regard to Western Sahara, the main role of UNICEF in the Tindouf camps was to assist refugees through the routine vaccination of all children up to 6 years of age (some 130,000 doses of vaccines) and to provide equipment and training for health personnel. UNICEF was also committed to ensuring that 30,000 enrolled children were provided with school supplies at the beginning of the academic year.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

11. The British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Tokelau are associate members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 2011, UNESCO supported Tokelau's participation in a regional consultation workshop on HIV/AIDS education and sexual and reproductive health. Further support was provided during the implementation of the first national women's policy and action plan, and in relation to the first national youth policy.

12. In the Caribbean, UNESCO supported a subregional conference on statistical education attended by participants from Anguilla, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat. Furthermore, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

continued to be active participants in the UNESCO climate change and coastal monitoring programme, through which pupils, teachers and local communities work together in the field to monitor their beach environments, identify and evaluate threats, problems and conflicts facing them and develop appropriate sustainable approaches to tackle these issues.

13. In addition, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands are members of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions. Regional tsunami exercises were held in the western Atlantic, Caribbean and adjacent regions in March 2011, in which 34 Caribbean countries and Territories participated, including Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. UNESCO also provided financial support to the Cayman Islands for a workshop on anti-doping in sports.

D. World Health Organization

14. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that in 2011 it had carried out collaborative activities on various health-related issues in American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Tokelau and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

15. WHO actions in American Samoa focused on introducing syndrome surveillance to strengthen communicable disease surveillance and early warning systems for outbreaks, and supported the introduction of a mental health programme in a hospital. Furthermore, two medical doctors received fellowships to boost human resources in the health sector.

16. With regard to Anguilla, WHO activities included assistance in preparing the costing of the national strategic plan for health; recommendations on the draft health sector quality model; training in preparedness for pandemic influenza; and the establishment of a commission on non-communicable diseases. WHO launched chronic care passports for patients with chronic non-communicable diseases, and held a training workshop on caring for older persons.

17. In Bermuda, a burden-of-illness study was undertaken in October 2011. Bermuda participated in meetings on the International Health Regulations, mortality data coding and epidemiology for health policy, and in a regional forum supporting development of children from birth to 3 years of age. A disease surveillance systems assessment report was completed in Bermuda and a plan of action to address gaps in communicable disease surveillance systems developed. WHO contributed technical expertise to a national conference on ageing in March 2011, and supported Bermuda's participation in a regional meeting on ageing.

18. After reviewing the situation in the British Virgin Islands, WHO implemented processes to strengthen the quality and coverage of health information systems. In addition, it engaged in learning sessions on the use of a chronic care model to address non-communicable diseases.

19. In the Cayman Islands, WHO engaged in cholera preparedness training for case management, surveillance, health promotion and water and sanitation, in November 2011. Training events were held on monitoring chronic non-communicable

diseases and strengthening HIV/AIDS responses. The Cayman Islands participated in regional meetings on the International Health Regulations. WHO supported the participation of the Cayman Islands in training sessions on HIV/AIDS and cytology at Harvard University, United States of America.

20. In Guam, WHO supported local fellowships at the University of Guam from the Department of Public Health and Social Services. Support was also provided for activities related to capacity-building, staff development and training in tobacco cessation, nutrition, diet and lifestyle; and technical assistance for health strategy development.

21. After reviewing the situation in Montserrat, WHO supported a dental initiative aimed at educating children. Cooperative engagement continued with the Government to build core capacity in relation to the International Health Regulations. WHO conducted a one-month study to improve drug rehabilitation facilities in Montserrat.

22. In New Caledonia, WHO and partners provided technical assistance to the Pasteur Institute in relation to disease research, surveillance, outbreak and response in the Pacific.

23. With regard to Tokelau, WHO provided support to train a medical doctor to help meet the needs of the health services. WHO and partners collaborated on non-communicable disease programmes for villages and national awareness programmes with emphasis on, among others, diet, nutrition and exercise. WHO responded to a severe drought in 2011 by providing technical assistance and equipment. An anti-tobacco programme continued through national-level activities such as nicotine replacement therapy.

24. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, WHO supported the finalization of the national health sector plan. It presented recommendations in response to the Government's priority to improve efficiency in health-care delivery.